THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) 7694 employees of units of Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Textiles have taken voluntary retirement from service during 2005-06.

(b) The number of employees who opted for VRS during 2005-06 were 3.41% higher in comparison to the year 2004-05 as the employees who took voluntary retirement during 2004-05 were 7440.

(c) No, Sir.

Missing the target of textile exports

1005. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exports this year are now slotted to reach $ 23 billion, down from the original target of $ 25 billion;

(b) whether it is a fact that last year's target was also missed by a couple of billion dollars and countries like China and Bangladesh have done better in international markets; and

(c) if so, whether Government has carried out any investigations in this matter and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A target of US Dollar 25.06 billion was set for textiles exports during 2007-08. During the first quarter, *i.e.*, April-June, 2007, export of US Dollar 4.01 billion of textiles items was achieved. However, the textiles industry is making sincere efforts to meet the target during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) As per the provisional data of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata, exports of textiles and clothing amounted to US$ 18.73 billion during 2006-07 against a target of US $ 19.73 billion, showing a shortfall of about 5% of the target. The details of textiles and clothing exports of India in comparison to China and Bangladesh during 2005 and 2006 are given below:

(Value in US $ million)

Name of exporting countries	2005		2006		% variation	
	Textiles	Clothing	Textiles	Clothing	Textiles	Clothing
China	41050	74163	48683	95388	18.59	28.62
India	8462	9212	9330	10192	10.26	10.64
Bangladesh	696	7751	*	*	*	*

SOURCE: World Trade Organisation

(* Figures not available)

To strengthen the textiles industry, the Government has provided several relief measures, which include increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.